

Showers Tonight;
Fair Saturday.

The Washington Times

LAST EDITION

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WASHINGTON, FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 19, 1909.

PRICE ONE CENT.

FOUR ARE KILLED WHEN CITY WATER TANKS COLLAPSE

Some Missing and Many Injured in Parkersburg Catastrophe.

FORTY HOUSES SWEEP AWAY

\$300,000 Damage Done, and City Faces Famine—Dynamite Suspected.

RESULTS OF FLOOD.

Four persons dead.
Two or more seriously injured; may die.
Several persons slightly hurt.
\$300,000 damage to property.
Forty houses destroyed, including St. John's Lutheran Church and the Parkersburg Summer School.
Three residences swept from their foundations and carried from 25 to 200 yards.
Breaking of the two water tanks makes Parkersburg face a water famine, since from them a large part of the city is supplied.

PAKERSBURG, W. Va., March 19.—

Four persons are known to be dead, two others are reported to be dying, several more were seriously injured and this city faces a water famine, and the resulting sickness almost certain to ensue, as a result of the breaking of two water tanks on Prospect Hill at 5:30 a. m.
The dead already recovered from the wrecked portion of the city are:
WALTER WAGGLE.
MRS. WALTER WAGGLE.
TWO CHILDREN OF THE WAGGLES.
The injured so far reported are:
Mrs. John Mahoney, both legs broken, reported to be dying.
Miss Ethel Jones, internal injuries, may die.
The father and mother of the Jones girl injured superficially by wrecked house. The damage is estimated to amount to at least \$300,000.
Forty houses are in ruins and the city water supply is very seriously impaired.
Dynamite Suspected.

While the cause of the break is not known, it is believed that a dynamite explosion was the start of the catastrophe. The efforts of the city's officials is at present turned to the succoring of the wounded, but an attempt will be made as soon as possible to fix the cause of the terrible disaster.
The city was sleeping when the flood came. The two tanks high up on Prospect Hill had always been regarded as safe and no thought had ever been given to the safety of that part of the city which naturally would lie in the path of any flood that might come from the hill.
There was no warning roar of the waters; the terrible life-blotting wall came with a rush and a swoop that made escape impossible, and that bowed over houses and buildings like chips are bowed over before the waves of a typhoon.
The fact that most people were in bed when the wave came, may have been responsible for the few number of dead. While the flood caught them off guard, it was not of long enough duration to cause damage such as the Conemaugh caused at Johnstown twenty years ago.

Houses Knocked Over.

The first houses reached by the tearing water were knocked over and jammed against those beyond and in a second others were bumping and beating into each other with a terrible grinding and crashing that awakened the city.
The dead and injured were probably caught in their beds and had no chance to get away. The debris of their own houses or of others carried on the crest of the wave, beat out life or broke limbs with superhuman force like chips are bowed over before the waves of a typhoon.
It was only a few minutes until the work of rescue was under way, but owing to the wreckage the injured were taken out slowly.
Parkersburg depends in part on these tanks for her water and the break will mean much suffering and probably disease, since the supply from other sources is not good.

WEATHER REPORT.

The disturbance that was central Thursday morning near Kansas City now covers the Ohio valley and the Lake region, and its rain area has extended over the Middle Atlantic States. The barometer is also low over the southern Rocky mountain region, and in the extreme Northwest.
Temperature has risen east of the Mississippi and in Texas; elsewhere the temperature changes have been slight. The winds along the middle Atlantic coast will be brisk southerly, shifting to west and northwest; on the South Atlantic and East Gulf coasts moderate westerly.

FORECAST FOR THE DISTRICT.

Showers and warmer tonight; showers, followed by fair and cooler Saturday; moderate to brisk westerly, shifting to northwesterly winds.

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